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## **Develop and Practice a Home Fire Escape Plan**

Below are guidelines for developing and practicing a home fire escape plan:

First, make sure to have at least one smoke alarm on each level of the home and in or near each sleeping area. Test the alarms every month by pushing the test button, and replace the batteries twice a year (when you change your clock in the spring & fall) or when the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low.

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark all doors and windows, and the location of each smoke alarm. If windows or doors have security bars, equip them with quick-release devices.
- Review the plan with each member of your family or household.
- Locate two escape routes from each room. The first way out would be the door, and the second way out could be a window.
- As you exit your home, close all doors behind you to slow the spread of fire and smoke. If smoke or fire blocks your exit, use your second exit to escape.
- If you must escape through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees – Stay Low and Go - under the smoke to safety. Smoke will rise to the ceiling, leaving cooler, cleaner air close to the floor.
- If you live in a high-rise building, use the stairs — never the elevator — in case of fire.
- Choose a meeting place a safe distance from your home and mark it on the escape plan. A good meeting place would be a tree, telephone pole, or a neighbor's home. In case of fire, everyone should gather at the meeting place so that all will know that everyone is OK – or someone is missing.
- If everyone is out of the house safely, have one person report that fact to arriving firefighters. If someone is missing, report this also.
- Make sure the street number/address of your home is visible to firefighters.
- Once outside, call 911 immediately from a nearby or neighbor's phone, or use a cellular phone you can grab quickly on the way out.
- Practice your escape drill at least twice a year.
- NEVER go back inside a burning building!

***“Together We Can Save Lives And Prevent Injuries”***



